Deteriorating conditions of contract labourers

991. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of contract labourers in Public Sector Undertakings, Central and State Government and private sector as per the latest information;

(b) whether the service and working conditions of these contract workers continue to deteriorate in practice;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have surveyed the conditions of contract labourers; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU):

Statement

(a) In accordance with the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, both the Central and State Government are 'appropriate Government' in respect of establishments coming within their respective spheres of jurisdiction. In the Central Sphere, the number of contract labour covered by licenses issued during the year 2004-05 were 968792.

(b) to (e) The Government is aware that the contract labour system is generally prevalent in various establishments. The labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour carries out surveys on the working conditions of contract labour from time to time. During the year 2000-2001, a survey in four industries/establishments namely Cement Manufacturing Industry, Cement Related Mines, Food Corporation of India's depots and National Thermal Power Corporation units was conducted. As per the report, the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and other labour laws are, by and large, being complied with by the establishments/ contractors. It has also been reported that contract workers were deployed on jobs which were of regular nature in the establishments/industries surveyed other than National Thermal Power Corporation.

Adequate provisions exist in the various labour laws including the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interests of contract labour in terms of their wages, welfare, health and social security. Several notifications have been issued by both the Central and State Governments prohibiting employment of contract labour in perennial nature of jobs/works/processes. Regular inspections are conducted and violations are dealt with strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law, by launching prosecutions also, if necessary.

Provision of houses for beedi workers

992. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed for beedi workers in 2004-05 and in 2005-06;

(b) the funds spent for this purpose;

(c) whether Government are considering proposals to make available funds for purchase of land for housing for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) (a): and (b) The Government has sanctioned a subsidy amount of Rs. 40.000/-per house for the construction of 15789 and 12,267 nos. of houses in 2004-05 & 2005-06 (up to January, 2006). An amount of Rs. 11.50 Crore & Rs. 47.15 Crore (up to January, 2006) was released towards subsidy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Schemes for development of rural areas

993. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific schemes have been implemented for the development of rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, in particular, and other parts of the country, in general;